

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 10, 1994

Published Since 1877

## Lay Renewal Weekend results more than expected

By Teresa Dickens

Their experiences are separate yet similar. Each pastor said he had been looking for something to give his church a spiritual boost. Each also recalled wanting something which would stimulate lay involvement, not only as a result, but from the beginning. As each prayed and searched for ideas, Lay Renewal Weekend (LRW) surfaced to the top.

LRW is the first step in the Church Renewal Journey (CRJ), a ministry tool jointly published and promoted by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board. It is led by a team of lay leaders from outside a fellowship and centers on involving the laity of a church in ministry.

LRW materials' emphasis on both spiritual preparation/growth and lay involvement convinced the pastors to give it a try. But nothing they anticipated about the LRW measured up to what they and their respective churches actually experienced.

"The weekend exceeded our expectations beyond words," said Leroy Brewer, pastor of New Zion Church, Crystal Springs. "The Lord used it greatly. It was just what we needed."

Clinton pastor Benton Preston described his church's (Pineview) LRW as "the greatest thing that I've ever been a part of. It was a heaven-sent, God-controlled, Spirit-filled weekend."

Both Brewer and Preston noted immediate results from their LRWs. New Zion recorded 14 professions of faith during its April 1993 LRW. Pineview saw an increase in giving and attendance following its May 1993 LRW. But

most notable was the new excitement within the membership about their faith and ministry to others.

The key to the success and impact of the LRW "is the organization and prayer," said Preston.

Preston's reference is to the organizational model outlined in CRJ materials. The material gives a step-by-step description of how

churches enter the renewal process, along with preparation for and follow-up to the various weekends.

Along with the LRW, the plan calls for three follow-up weekends: Lay Ministry Weekend, Discipleship Weekend, and Stewardship/Evangelism Weekend. A fourth weekend based on Henry Blackaby's "Experiencing God,"

will also be an option later this year. The weekends are scheduled based on a church's needs.

CRJ materials also place a great emphasis on prayer. Weeks before the LRW, for example, the material calls for an intensive study on prayer, suggesting such tools as the video series "A Walk With the Master," by Don Miller, and "Acts

of Prayer." The material also calls for times of intentional prayer for renewal, such as cottage prayer meetings and a 24-hour prayer vigil on the eve of the LRW.

"The act of preparation is more important than what happens during the weekend," commented Barry C. Corbett, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko. "The emphasis on prayer is what brought on the experience of the weekend."

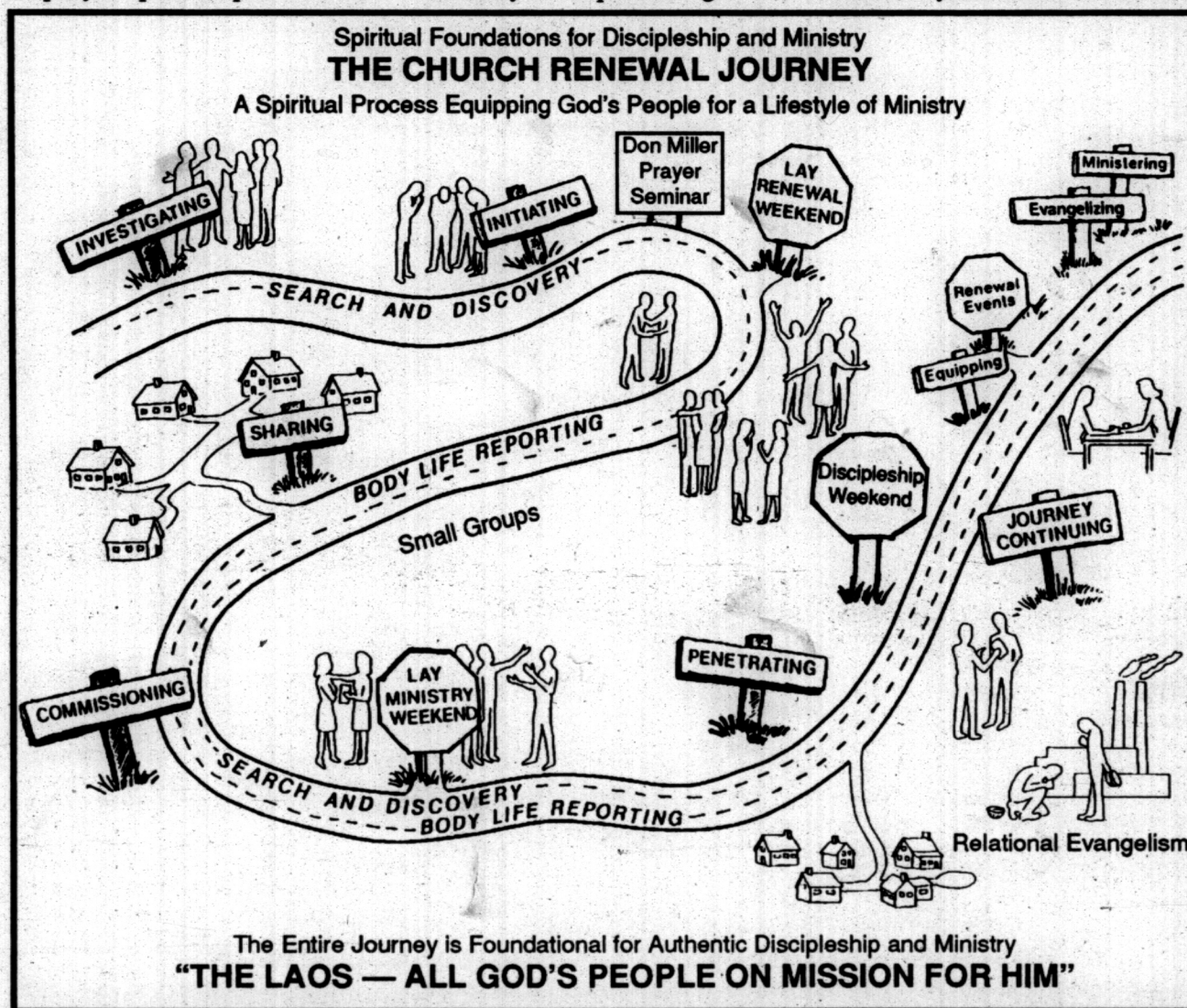
Howard Peak, pastor of Trinity Church, Fulton, agreed. "The prayer effort of the church and the team members breaks the stronghold of the attitude, 'I can't do that,' and opens the church up for renewal."

"And that is the greatest impact of the Church Renewal Journey — genuine renewal," he said. "We have been blessed at every point of our church life. The renewal journey will certainly be one of the hallmarks of our church's history."

Each of the above mentioned churches are still in the CRJ process. All have conducted one or more of the follow-up weekends and anticipate completing the prescribed journey.

While all four pastors said they would strongly encourage other pastors and churches to join the Church Renewal Journey, Peak offered this caution: "If a church is looking for a quick fix, it should not consider Lay Renewal. It's work and calls on a church family to be open to God and each other."

For churches interested in more information on CRJ, contact the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; (601) 968-3800.



### Best sellers at the Mississippi Baptist Book Store

#### Hardback

1. When God Doesn't Make Sense by James Dobson
2. He Still Moves Stones by Max Lucado
3. Flying Closer to the Flame by Charles Swindoll
4. Eat Well, Live Well by Pamela Smith
5. Sacred Honor: A Biography of Colin Powell by David Roth
6. Whatever Happened to the American Dream? by Larry Burkett
7. My Utmost for His Highest, Updated Edition by Oswald Chambers
8. Quiet Times for Couples by Norm Wright
9. Romancing the Home by Ed Young
10. The Body by Charles Colson

#### Paperback

1. Heart of the Wilderness by Janette Oke
2. Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy by Barbara Johnson
3. Heirs to the Motherland by Bodie Thoene
4. Say This to the Mountain by Bodie Thoene
5. Pack Up Your Gloomies in a Great Big Box by Barbara Johnson
6. The Bondage Breaker by Neil Anderson
7. 52 Dates for You and Your Mate by David & Claudia Arp
8. Wings of the Morning by Lori Wick
9. One Size Fits All by Liz Curtis Higgs
10. Grayfox by Michael Phillips

Source: Mississippi Baptist Book Store  
(601) 977-9676

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Jackson County Association supports the establishment of the first African-American Southern Baptist mission in Mississippi, Christ Temple Church in Pascagoula.

#### 20 years ago

Plans are finalized at First Church, Tupelo, for the Mississippi Family Life Conference entitled, "The Caring Church and the Changing Family."

#### 50 years ago

Rev. Chester Swor, one of the Southern Baptist Convention's outstanding youth leaders, is invited to speak on the Baptist Hour radio program.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Plow a straight furrow

Rightly dividing the Word of Truth is the desire of Christian workers. The apostle Paul said, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

"Do your utmost... to cut straight; Driving a straight furrow in your proclamation of the truth; Correctly analyzing and accurately dividing the Word of truth; Know what the Word says and means;" are some of the translations of this admonition.

The Bible continuously tops the best seller list and is available in numerous translations for every age group. Even so, it is held at arm's length by most people. They do not wish to lose it nor will they embrace it.

God expects spiritual growth in his children. Spiritual immaturity can be traced to the neglect of the Bible. "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed..." (John 8:32).

It is perilous for an individual or a church to treat lightly the Scriptures. We grow in grace as we study the Word. A nation is in peril when the Word is neglected. The sanctity of life and the value of a human being is interpreted by

man's feeling when the Word is closed.

Neglect is not the only peril — wrongly dividing the Word can be catastrophic. Choosing to adhere to parts of the Scripture and ignore other verses is hardly dividing the Word aright.

The Bible is not just another book. John Dewey, philosopher and educator, rejected Christianity, substituting a humanistic paganism in which man is the central focus of life. Modernism and biblical criticism with evil intent will flourish in an atmosphere which questions the reliability, accuracy, and authority of the Word.

"Thus saith the Lord" is stripped of its power by the pen of liberalism and the binding message for man is negated. We surely owe a debt of gratitude to faithful Bible scholars who devote their lives to a clear understanding of Scripture.

Still, "correctly analyzing and accurately dividing" the Word calls for close attention. Is there a danger in emphasizing the "tithes and offerings" of Malachi, and neglecting the rest of the book? We can apply the verse for women to learn in silence and then remain silent about what they were doing in other churches. We paint with a

broad brush "preach the Word," and then use a dull pencil on words like "endure hardness as a good soldier," or, heaven forbid, "take a little wine" for your infirmity. God is not asking for blind credence on our part, but an intelligent faith. Jesus himself said, "Whoso readeth, let him understand" (Matt. 24:15).

Questions should be considered when we pick up this library of 66 books written over a span of years. Who wrote it? Why did he write? To whom is it addressed? What were the circumstances then? What was the political, religious, economic climate then? — and possibly many other questions. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and give wisdom. We must be "diligent" in accurately dividing the truth.

Has there ever been a time or generation more in need of a chart and compass to guide us in moral and spiritual matters? We have a dependable Bible. Christ admonished the Emmaus disciples, "O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken" (Luke 24:25). The same Holy Spirit who inspired this Word has preserved it for God's people. Heaven and earth may pass away, but the Word will still be standing.



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Dare we try this?

Recently the messengers of the North Carolina Convention voted unanimously for "The Great American TV Turn-off Day" on May 1. The idea is to protest violence and moral depravity on many television shows. Several other states have reflected an interest.

While this day will hardly be noticed by the vast television industry we can register our displeasure. Like the frog in the warm water, we are growing accustomed to the immoral lifestyle being presented as the norm. The heat has been turned up, and we learn to accommodate it rather than change it.

One weary speaker remarked in a conference: "Any harassed preacher would do well to shut off his television set and find a back porch facing a pasture where he can hear only the crickets. He may think for a few days that it will drive him crazy. He will find out

that he has already been crazy and is just now returning to sanity."

Recently Walter Payton, NFL Hall of Fame football player, gave some sage advice to parents: Turn off the television set. Payton was speaking at a literacy conference. The former Chicago Bear running back said his 12-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter may choose from two television categories. They can watch either sporting events or anything their mother selects.

The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal claims a survey has indicated a majority of people want regulation of the amount of violence and sex that appears on TV. Moreover, 84% of parents feel like they must act as "gate-keepers" over television for their children. Be assured, a steady diet of crime, violence, and sex will mark the minds of those who view it.

Can we live one day without it? Dare we turn it off? — GH

may be under tremendous stress — such as when he has had to deal with a large number of illnesses and funerals, or when he has suffered personal loss.

Deacons and other church leaders need to be sensitive to certain critical issues: Is the pastor's family being adequately provided for financially? Is your pastor being provided with adequate health insurance and a retirement plan? Is he offered counseling services if

he gets under great stress, and is he and his family encouraged to get away for needed rest and recreation?

Churches and church people: Look after your pastor and his family. They are one of the greatest assets you have. When God calls a pastor to a particular church, he calls that church to minister to that family.

Neal is editor, Georgia CHRISTIAN INDEX.

## Guest Opinion...

## Tribute to a noble profession: Pastor

By William T. Neal III

Since there seems to be no particular day set aside on the denominational calendar for honoring our pastors, perhaps this is as good a time as any to say a positive word for those men who shepherd our churches. I must admit that when the going gets rough in my job, I pause to put things in perspective: "But what if I were a pastor?"

I have never felt called to be a pastor, but I certainly have lots of friends who are, and from my own observation, it is a tough job! That is not to say that pastors are unhappy and miserable in their roles; at least most are not. If one is truly called to be a pastor, God gives him a sense of fulfillment and joy that more than makes up for the difficulties.

And yet, it is a tough job. I would think that the greatest difficulty is in living up to everyone's expectations not only of you but your family. Living in the proverbial "fishbowl" cannot be easy!

There is also the matter of being "on call" 24 hours a day. You have to leave town in order to have a real vacation, and even

then you are subject to being called home for an emergency.

Church people can be very demanding of their ministers and at the same time very judgmental when they make mistakes. Often the pastor is caught in the middle between church members who have differing ideas about a church program or project and he is going to have someone upset no matter which position he takes.

Most pastors go about their daily routines with great sensitivity and commitment, and with little recognition. Many of them stay in the ministry at great financial sacrifice and perhaps at risk of destroying their health due to the stress factor.

Some are better preachers; others are better at counseling. All have differing administrative skills, and each has his own set of spiritual gifts. But there are certain characteristics that all pastors possess: a commitment to hard work, a desire to do their best, and a deep love for Christ and his church. I have learned something from every pastor I have known,

but not just through their sermons.

As I think about it, every man who has been my pastor has had a great woman beside him. I have tremendous respect for the role of pastor's wife, and while she may not be the one voted on by the church, she definitely comes as part of the package and her role can be just as difficult at times.

The point I am making is that the strength and character of our pastors and their families is something we should never take for granted. They should be treated with respect, prayed for regularly, and helped in every way that we can. That goes for our current pastor and those who have retired and/or moved to other churches. Former pastors need our continuing support.

Part of our ministry to them should be to simply offer encouragement. Many get recognized on significant anniversaries and get plenty of handshakes on Sunday morning. But it is the individual kindnesses that mean the most. Be sensitive to the fact that there are particular times when the pastor

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 118 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 1  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor.....Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.  
Advertising/News writer.....Teresa Dickens  
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey  
Layout/News writer.....Shannon T. Simpson  
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Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Robert Self, Brookhaven; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Teresa Dickens, secretary.  
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.



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## Mississippians set record pace for feeding quake-stricken L.A.

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers, in their third week of meal preparation for victims of the Jan. 17 Los Angeles earthquake, twice exceeded the unit's all-time record for most meals cooked in a single day.

Workers more than doubled the previous record of 5,000 meals by preparing 10,800 meals on Feb. 3 and 11,600 meals on Feb. 5, said Jim Didlake, consultant in the Brotherhood Department and on-site coordinator for disaster relief of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"The Mississippi unit was designed for a maximum of 9,000 meals daily, so you can see that our volunteers have done everything they've been asked to do — and then some. This is the first time out for several of our new crew members, and they have done an outstanding job of molding into the system," Didlake pointed out.

Total meals prepared by the unit since its arrival in California Jan. 23 exceeded 100,000 earlier this week, he added.

Jim Burton, national off-site coordinator for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, reported that nearly 764,000 meals had been prepared through Feb. 6 by seven Baptist units in various locations around Los Angeles.

Mississippi's tractor-trailer unit is located at the Van Nuys airport, along with Baptist state conven-

tion units from California, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

Under less than ideal conditions — 70-mile-per-hour winds last week forced the relocation of at least one California Baptist relief unit and blew down the canopy over the Mississippi unit — meal preparation goes on unabated.

"It's the coldest wind I've ever felt," Didlake said.

Edd Brown, former California Brotherhood/Men's Ministries director, is conducting assessments on churches so that a repair schedule can be formed as state



Talmadge Smith (left) loads up the stock pot for Clay Moss at the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief unit, in California to help feed victims of the disastrous Jan. 17 quake.

Brotherhood departments begin recruiting church construction volunteers.

Brown said structural engineers will be needed, as well as workers skilled in texturing, plaster repair, and concrete block laying.

Greg Sumii, assistant coordinator for California Baptists, said a sufficient number of local volunteers has minimized the need for out-of-state help during the cleanup phase.

Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department, said financial contributions to the relief effort continue to be a high priority. To make a contribution or volunteer for service in California, contact the Brotherhood Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

## Two thousand attend funeral of slain Iranian Christian leader

TEHRAN, Iran (BP) — More than 2,000 people from across Iran braved bitterly cold weather at the Christian Cemetery Feb. 3 to attend the funeral of Haik Hovsepian-Mehr, superintendent of the Assemblies of God churches in Iran.

Hovsepian-Mehr, 49, reportedly was found dead Jan. 20 on a street in a suburb of Tehran, Iran's capital. He had disappeared Jan. 19 on the way to meet visitors at the airport. His family learned of his death Jan. 30.

Police said Hovsepian-Mehr's body was still warm when they discovered it. An autopsy showed he had been stabbed several times in the chest. The police told family members they were initially unable to identify Hovsepian-Mehr and so buried him in Beheshte Zahra, Iran's largest Muslim cemetery just outside Tehran.

The police granted the family's

## Cooperative Program gifts continue upward trend for fiscal year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program receipts for January, although down slightly from January last year, continue the trend of monthly increases for the fiscal year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The CP gifts for January 1994 totaled \$14,254,071 compared to January 1993 of \$14,292,208 or a decrease of \$38,137 which is .27%, said Chapman. But the year-to-date figures, October through January, showed the CP receipts at \$48,621,957 compared to the previous fiscal year-to-date of \$47,764,007

which is an \$857,949 increase or 1.80%.

The four month totals, fiscal year-to-date, show \$48,621,957 compared to that period's budget requirement of \$46,078,245 or 5.52% above the requirement which is \$2,543,712. The year-to-date totals show receipts above the budget requirement for the first time this fiscal year.

Designated gifts for January 1994 were down slightly compared to January 1993: \$21,655,020 compared to \$21,986,820 or 1.51% decrease. For the year-to-date, 1993-94 has \$28,113,779 compared to 1992-93 of \$29,560,263 or 4.89% decrease.

## Mississippi CP January giving starts '94 up 4%

Mississippi Baptists gave just under two million dollars through the Cooperative Program in January, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which channels the funds.

The total for January 1994 was \$1,999,855. This is \$78,170, or

4.07% more than the \$1,921,685 given in January 1993.

January giving was \$128,855, or 6.89% more than the pro rata budget amount of \$1,921,685. The pro rata budget amount is the total 1994 budget, which is \$22,452,000, divided by 12 and multiplied by the number of months elapsed in the year.

### Mississippi Baptists in California quake area

Name	Hometown	Home church
William T. Wright*	Columbia	Goss
Bill Purvis***	Ethel	Ethel
John Barr	Brandon	First, Brandon
Don Bailey	Pearl	McLaurin Heights
Creslyn White	Brandon	First, Brandon
Ben Stewart	Magnolia	First, Magnolia
Jerry Sanford*	Sardis	First, Sardis
Charles Abbey	Waynesboro	Mt. Zion
Bill McCreary**	Ripley	First, Ripley
Ron Ballard**	Winona	Carrollton

\*pastor

\*\*Associational Director of Missions

\*\*\*second tour

### Mississippi Baptists returning home

Jim Didlake	Jerry Bishop
Bill Lee	Don Tew
Harry Quinn	Lee Castle
Randy Graves	Glen Mullins
Wayne Herrington	John Richardson
Terry Hadaway	

—Source: Mississippi Brotherhood Department  
Current as of February 8, 1994

## Graham carries Clinton message to N. Korea

WASHINGTON (BP) — Evangelist Billy Graham delivered a personal letter from President Bill Clinton to North Korean President Kim Il Sung during an early-February visit to North Korea.

The two-sentence letter concerned North Korea's refusal to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities — a growing international crisis.

Military and intelligence groups suspect North Korea

already may have one or more nuclear weapons.

The Southern Baptist preacher, still in east Asia after an evangelistic crusade in Japan, "did carry a message from President Clinton to President Kim Il Sung," confirmed U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry on Feb. 3.

The spokesman said Graham brought back a response, which was to be given directly to the

president.

Clinton's letter was not made public, but reportedly stressed the need for progress in negotiations over North Korea's opposition to U.N. inspectors checking its nuclear facilities.

U.S. officials are considering economic sanctions against North Korea.

North Korea, in turn, warns such sanctions could lead to a new war on the Korean peninsula.





## Game supper brings out wild life

The Family Life Center of Calvary Church, Waynesboro, was the site of the seventh annual Brotherhood-sponsored Wild Game Supper. Thirty-one cooks fed over 700 people on rattlesnake, deer, elk, and other game dishes. Ben Willoughby's hog calling techniques and Tony Bishop's turkey calling were part of the evening's entertainment, as was a howling rendition of "Ole Blue," led by Paul Ott (above, far right). Waynesboro Mayor Craig Ezell, Governor Kirk Fordice, Tommy Dickerson, Joe Taylor, James Cochran, Arthur Lee Nored, and a few others joined Ott in the serenade. Doug Broome is pastor of Calvary.

## BSSB changes approach, affirms commitment to special education needs

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Baptist Sunday School Board is changing its approach to resourcing special education ministries in Southern Baptist churches, but the agency is not diminishing its commitment to the work, Louis Hanks, director of the youth-adult department in the board's Bible teaching-reaching division, said.

Recent structural changes in the board's organization moved special education work from a self-contained unit to age group and general leadership departments in the Bible teaching-reaching division. Special education consultant Gene Nabi also announced his retirement, effective Jan. 1, though he will continue to serve as a contract worker through the end of the year.

Hanks said the restructuring was in response to recommendations made by a special task force which examined ways to improve BSSB literature, programs, and field service. The relocation of special education ministry is designed "to provide distinctive resources and consultative services and to encourage all age groups and general officers to understand and undergird the needs of people

with handicaps and disabilities," he said, adding, "Our intention is to lift up rather than diminish our commitment to special education work."

As part of the new approach, Hanks said special education responsibilities have been assigned to editors and consultants in the preschool-children's, youth-adult, and general leadership departments who will form a team to make suggestions and plans for resources and emphases. In addition, more personnel in the Bible teaching-reaching division will be trained to help support special education work in state conventions, associations, and local churches.

The new organizational structure better reflects the approach most SBC churches use in meeting special education needs, Hanks said.

"About 80% of preschoolers, children, and youth with special needs are enrolled (or 'mainstreamed') in classes with age group peers," Hanks explained. "Adults usually are organized in separate departments."

Alford writes for FACTS AND TRENDS, BSSB.

## Alaskans call for help

Rabbitt Creek Community Church in Anchorage, Alaska, is trying to complete its educational building by Easter, and needs help! The building is enclosed but needs about 40,000 square feet of sheetrock hung immediately.

The church is requesting several teams of four to six volunteers to help finish this project. Rabbitt Creek will provide housing and meals, but a cook for each team would be a plus.

To respond, call Partnership Missions or the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, (601) 968-3800.

# Southern to discontinue exhibits at CBF-sponsored gatherings

By Marv Knox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Southern Seminary no longer will set up exhibits or sponsor alumni gatherings at meetings of groups it believes compete with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new policy will terminate the school's presence at state and national meetings of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, seminary administrators confirmed. The policy was approved by the seminary's trustee executive committee Feb. 1 in Louisville.

The new policy — approved by the trustee executive committee in time to be presented in the SBC's 1994 Book of Reports — will prevent future exhibits and alumni dinners, reported Tom Mabe, vice president for institutional advancement and supervisor of alumni relations.

Despite dropping the seminary's presence at the Fellowship meetings, the school plans to seek a relationship with alumni who affiliate with the Fellowship, Mabe reported.

Seminary President Albert Mohler "will meet with any group as long as it's not part of the overall Fellowship meeting or the Ken-

tucky Baptist Fellowship meeting or whatever," Mabe noted. "He has no hesitancy to meet with the people, but out of respect for the request of the SBC," he won't come to meetings affiliated with anti-SBC groups.

Howard Cobble, president of the national alumni association, said he hopes the seminary will maintain its ties with all alumni.

"I think we must be careful not to lose contact with the alumni of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary," said Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Church in Elizabethtown, Ky.

"All of them, whether in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or not, have attended the school. Many of them have sacrificed for her (Southern's) well-being and have supported the school.

"There must be found some way to continue a loving relationship with all alumni."

David Wilkinson of CBF said "I was a little surprised that the trustees felt compelled to respond when the invitation was extended to the seminary's alumni association, not to the board of trustees," he explained. "Their attitude may

be disappointing to those Southern Baptists who chose to contribute more than \$125,000 to the seminary through the Fellowship last year.

"That attitude is certainly not inconsistent with the paranoia of those who now control the boards of the SBC's agencies and institutions."

Some schools' alumni associations — such as those for Baylor University and Southeastern Seminary — are independently incorporated. But Southern's is directly connected to the seminary, said Mabe.

"The alumni association exists to serve the seminary and its outreach to the alumni community," he noted.

In the past, Southern Seminary booths and alumni dinners at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship have been set up by the seminary administration, not the alumni association, he said.

The seminary's response to the SBC motion was developed by the administration before being approved by the trustees, he said.

Knox is editor, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

## SBC officials approve Disney specials for SBC in Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — A number of arrangements have been announced for the 1994 session of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla., according to SBC officials, including a special package with the popular Disney World.

The annual meeting is at the Orange County Convention Center. Rooms, especially close to the convention center, are going fast, but there are still plenty of rooms in the area, according to Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee and the Orlando convention manager.

However, Wilkerson warned, a World Cup Soccer game, scheduled for the weekend after the SBC meeting in Orlando, is already sold out. He urged people planning vacations at the SBC meeting to do so prior to the June 14-16 meeting.

A "minimal" shuttle service is planned, costing \$1 per person per ride, basically along the main International Boulevard where many of the hotels are located. Although the convention center is expanding and under construction, there still will be parking available in close proximity, about one-quarter mile, with about 5,000 spaces. Parking ranges from \$3-4 per day.

Although no attendance forecast has been made for Orlando, its popularity as a family recreation area has led SBC officials to work out an agreement with Disney World for a special package for Southern Baptists.

SBC officials urged conven-

tion-goers and families who plan to enjoy Walt Disney World to arrive early. Special — only offered to SBC attendees — two- and three-day passes for all three Disney parks are available. The special tickets will not be available at the gate or to the general public. They are good for admission to the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT Center and/or Disney-MGM Studios.

Ticket order forms are available by writing the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN, 37203 or calling (615) 244-2355 to ask for the order form.

The special SBC packages for the Orlando meeting are available from June 1 through the 21 but exclude June 14-15, the first two days of the SBC annual meeting.

## Churches, individuals needed for Cross Over

ATLANTA (BP) — With 173 churches in central Florida planning to participate in Cross Over Orlando, churches and individuals from other areas are needed to help carry out the pre-convention evangelistic thrust.

Participating churches represent more than half the churches and missions in the six central Florida associations, said Jerry Pipes, national missionary for the Home Mission Board's evangelism section.

"We want to match a partner

church (from outside the area) with every participating church in central Florida," Pipes said.

Previous Crossover activities have included neighborhood surveys, block parties, street evangelism, evangelistic rallies, and church planting. Last year, 1,267 professions of faith, 196 rededications, and 1,448 prospects were reported in Houston.

For information on becoming a partner church or individual participant, contact the Home Mission Board at (404) 898-7687.

## Cross Over Orlando





# CLC's Richard Land speaks to prolife rally in Corinth

By Deborah Brunt

"The prolife movement has yet to crest in the United States," said Richard Land, executive director-treasurer of Southern Baptists' Christian Life Commission. Speaking last Saturday afternoon in Corinth at a rally sponsored by the Alcorn chapter of Right to Life, Land declared the right-to-life issue the "defining issue of our day."

"We have aborted one third of an entire generation of Americans," he told the crowd of about 150 gathered at Tate Street Church. "We've sown the wind. We're reaping the whirlwind."

Noting that God has a purpose for every life he creates, Land asked, "Have we aborted the baby God sent to find a cure for cancer? The baby God sent to find a cure for AIDS? The baby God sent to find a cure for Alzheimer's? There's a one-in-three chance we have."

Land said that during his years growing up in a Baptist church, he often heard statements like, "We're

Southern Baptists. We don't get involved in anything controversial. We're just going to preach the gospel."

"If you preach the whole gospel, you're going to get involved in something controversial," Land insisted.

He said, "Changing the law by itself will not suffice. Revival by itself will not suffice. We've got to have revival that leads us to understand our responsibility to be salt and light in the political arena. Revival plus reform equals reformation."

At the end of his remarks, Land received a standing ovation.

Before he spoke, Sandy Ellard, president of Mississippi Right to Life, told about prolife legislation Mississippi has passed. John Riley, of American Family Radio in Tupelo, gave a testimony of his involvement in the prolife cause. Laura Murphy of Tupelo spoke in behalf of Sav-a-Life.

All the speakers urged Christian

citizens to become involved in the public arena. Responding to the statement that "you can't legislate morality," Land insisted, "Nothing could be more false. Government must legislate morality in order to fulfill its God-ordained purpose. In so doing, we do not impose our morality on the murderer and the thief so much as we prevent them from imposing their immorality on their victims."

After the rally, Land was asked, "Seeing so much ungodliness on the move in our country, what do you see God doing?" He responded, "I see God judging us as a nation. But I also see God moving in other ways. For one thing, more young people are involved in the prolife cause than ever before. They see the march of death we're taking. They recognize that, just because they managed to be born, they haven't escaped the effects of abortion."

Brunt is a writer and member of Tate Street Church, Corinth.

## CLC leader calls Baptists to be salt, light

FORT WORTH — Southern Baptists must rescue the United States from declining morals, Richard Land, director of the Christian Life Commission, said during a chapel service Jan. 26 at Southwestern Seminary.

Land said Americans in the 1990s will decide to reassert Judeo-Christian values, or they will decide to allow secularism to engulf the country.

If secularism takes over, the country will plunge "into a dark and barbarous abyss of secularism — of paganism — to be a society which will be the moral equivalent of those primitive societies that dragged their aged and their

infirm out on ice flows to die of exposure or abandoned them in the jungles to be torn apart by wild animals," Land said. "Only, we'll do it in a little more sophisticated manner with lethal injections and denials of health care."

Christians must fight those social ills if they are going to follow Christ's command to be salt and light, he said.

"Salt... must touch that which it would disinfect. There is no room for obedience to being salt and light if we withdraw from the world to be uninvolved with society," Land said.

Christians cannot separate social problems and the gospel of Jesus, Land said.

"There is only one gospel. It is blasphemous to seek to feed the hungry and not tell them about the bread of life," he said. "But it is a denial of the incarnation to seek to preach to the spiritual needs of people and to ignore their physical and emotional hurts."

Addressing physical problems like abortion, homelessness, or euthanasia will force Christians into a battle that must be fought, Land said.

"I do not think the battle can be won without the active participation of the largest non-Catholic denomination in America, namely the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

## Murdered Tennessee BSU leader leaves legacy of faith

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The slaying of four workers at a Taco Bell restaurant in Clarksville, Tenn., has brought grief to the entire community, including the Baptist Student Union at Austin Peay State University.

Kevin Campbell, a former officer of the BSU, was one of the four killed Jan. 30.

Campbell and the other three employees — all in their 20s — were completing work at the restaurant when they were killed during a robbery in the early hours of Sunday, Jan. 30.

Campbell — a student, employee, and a new father — was preparing to co-lead a Bible study at the center, said Jim Alexander, BSU director at Austin Peay.

He and his wife, Lori, had a baby three weeks earlier. The subject of the Bible study — the minor prophets of the Old Testa-

ment — was a special interest of Campbell's, Alexander said.

Just three years ago, when Campbell became a student at Austin Peay and began visiting the BSU, he had not made an initial commitment to God, Alexander recounted. Campbell not only made that decision but was a junior studying philosophy to prepare for study at a Southern Seminary.

Students are gathering in small groups at the BSU center remembering Campbell's involvement as a BSU officer and work on a mission trip to Baltimore, sponsored by the BSU.

The grief counseling will be ongoing, Alexander said. Some students are fearful because of the senseless violence of the act. "We're always searching for meaning and there's no meaning in this act," he said.

Others are dealing with the

absurdity of the killings. That's where Campbell's life is an encouragement, Alexander said.

Campbell probed the meanings of his faith and lived it, Alexander said. "He gently, confidently, and genuinely shared his faith."

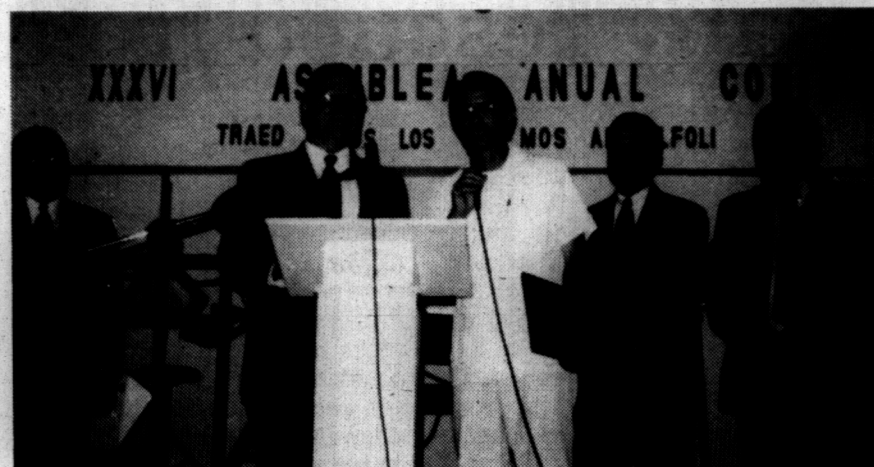
In his eulogy at First Church, Clarksville, where Campbell was a member, Alexander read the following excerpt from Campbell's journal — "I suddenly realize that I have no clue as to how my life will turn out.... I must allow the Lord to lead me where he will."

"We're going to miss him, but we're better because he's come our way," Alexander said.

The tragedy has impacted Middle Tennessee. A fund set up by a Nashville radio station for the 11 children of the victims received \$24,000 in two days. Taco Bell has donated \$5,000 for each child. People are still placing flowers at the restaurant site, Alexander said.

Thursday, February 10, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Mississippi Baptist leaders joined with Honduran Baptists Jan. 13 at Primera Iglesia Bautista (First Baptist) Church in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to sign the Mississippi/Honduras Partnership agreement. On hand for the signing were (top photo, from left) Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Carl Rees, director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board's mission office in Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and president of the MBCB executive committee; and Misael Ariago, president of the Honduras Baptist Convention. Members of the church's handbell choir (below) celebrated the inauguration of the partnership with a performance during the service.



## Modern-day David knocks giant Donahue off station

By Tim Tune

FORT WORTH (BP) — This time David's victory is not final: One Goliath has fallen and another is descending into the valley. But the David of this story, Texas Baptist dentist Richard Neill, says he's not going to stop fighting the giants: TV stations that broadcast the Donahue talk show during times when children can have easy access, as well as advertisers that support the program.

Neill, of Fort Worth, declared a moral victory when Dallas ABC affiliate WFAA-TV decided to cancel the show several months before the contract runs out in December 1994.

WFAA general manager "Cathy Creany called two months ago and said they wouldn't renew the contract because advertisers had blackballed the program and they were losing money," Neill told Baptist Press. "I assumed business as usual but they decided to stop the program at the end of September. That was a surprise to me."

The station broadcasts the program at 9 a.m., an hour Neill says children have easy access to the show that frequently deals with

subjects he says are inappropriate for youngsters. During Neill's almost two-year scrutiny of the program, hosted by Phil Donahue, the dentist and his wife have documented discussions of prostitution, penile transplants, masturbation, mother-daughter stripper teams, and spouse-swapping orgies.

According to some newspaper reports, during the school year about 1,000 children watch Donahue daily on WFAA. In the summer, it's about 8,000.

He said 221 sponsors had dropped Donahue as of the day he found out that WFAA would cut short its commitment to run the program. Those sponsors include such advertisers as Baskin-Robbins ice cream, Dr Pepper soft-drink bottlers, Keebler snack foods, Kmart department stores, Sara Lee bakeries, and Wendy's restaurants. Another of the show's former mega-sponsors, which Neill said would prefer to remain anonymous, had spent as much as \$5.5 million annually on the program, he said.

Tune writes for the Annuity Board.



# Baby rescued from trash key to Boran response

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — There's no shortage of tragedy in the Mathare slums of Nairobi.

So the starving, helpless, and almost hopeless baby who found his way into the lives of John and Martha Adams 15 years ago was just another in a long list of challenges.

But the Southern Baptist medical missionaries took the boy home, where their teenage daughter, Linda, helped care for him for weeks at a time.

When the child died a couple of years later, the effort seemed futile. Yet that baby — saved from a garbage heap and death in the jaws of hyenas and wild dogs — was the key that unlocked the hearts of the Boran tribe of Kenya to the claims of the gospel a decade and a half later.

In 1977 an older Boran woman, Adijah, found the child abandoned on a garbage heap and asked government officials if she could keep him. But the sickly child, whom she named Abdi, needed more than the love and care the Muslim woman could give him — and she was so poor herself she couldn't feed him properly.

Several months later a worried Adijah took him to the Baptist clinic in Mathare Valley. He was 18 months old, weighed 11 pounds — and had tuberculosis. He couldn't even move his head.

But the Adamses took him to their own home. Linda, a sophomore in high school, put his bed in her room and got up in the night to feed him through a tube. Slowly he gained some strength, although he was mentally and physically retarded because of malnutrition.

Adijah was so impressed she brought the missionary family

another challenge: her granddaughter Mumina, about the same age as Abdi, who had been paralyzed when an injection hit her sciatic nerve.

The Adamses took in Mumina too. For three years they cared for both babies in their home two weeks out of every month. They forced Abdi to stand up and walk and got a brace for Mumina in addition to massaging and exercising her legs.

But Abdi died of pneumonia in 1980 and soon afterwards the Adamses resigned as Foreign Mission Board missionaries and returned to the United States.

At no time had Adijah or any of her family shown the slightest interest in Christianity. They appreciated what the missionaries had done but were content with Islam.

Young Linda Adams thought

the story ended there.

Years passed. Linda went to college, became a nurse, and married John Witte. They were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries — to Kenya — by the Foreign Mission Board in 1990. In December 1991 a young woman knocked on her door in Nairobi.

"Do you remember me?" she asked. "I'm Asha."

Linda didn't, but a few words established the link. Asha was one of Adijah's daughters, an aunt to Mumina. The missionary doctor now working in Mathare had told her Linda Adams was back in Nairobi. The next day Asha returned with Mumina and her brother, Mohammed Wario.

"I had never known how many other kind and wonderful things Mother and Daddy had done for the family — they never made a big deal about it," Linda



**OLD FRIENDS** — Southern Baptist missionary Linda Witte and Mumina Abdi (right) enjoy a laugh. As a teenager, Linda cared for the paralyzed Mumina when Linda's missionary parents brought Mumina into their home. The two were reunited when Linda returned to Kenya as a missionary. (BP photos by Charles Ledford)



**WALKING AND TALKING THE GOSPEL** — Mohammed Wario, a Boran Christian, preaches to his people. Every preacher's life is compared with his words, but Wario's more than most. The Boran people of Kenya are overwhelmingly Muslim, and Muslim leaders oppose the spread of the gospel among them. "We are a hard people," Wario admitted. "But we keep our word. A Boran who decides to stand for Jesus will stand all the way. If we can show them, by the way we live, that Jesus is the only way to God, nothing will move them from their faith."

make a living."

Then came the bombshell: Three years after the Adamses had left Kenya, Wario had become a Christian through the witness of students at Pan African Bible College. His mother, who had rescued baby Abdi from the garbage, had thrown Mohammed out of her house at first, but as she saw the changes in his behavior had accepted him again.

He didn't know any other Boran Christians, and for four years he had been praying daily for someone to help him share the gospel with his people.

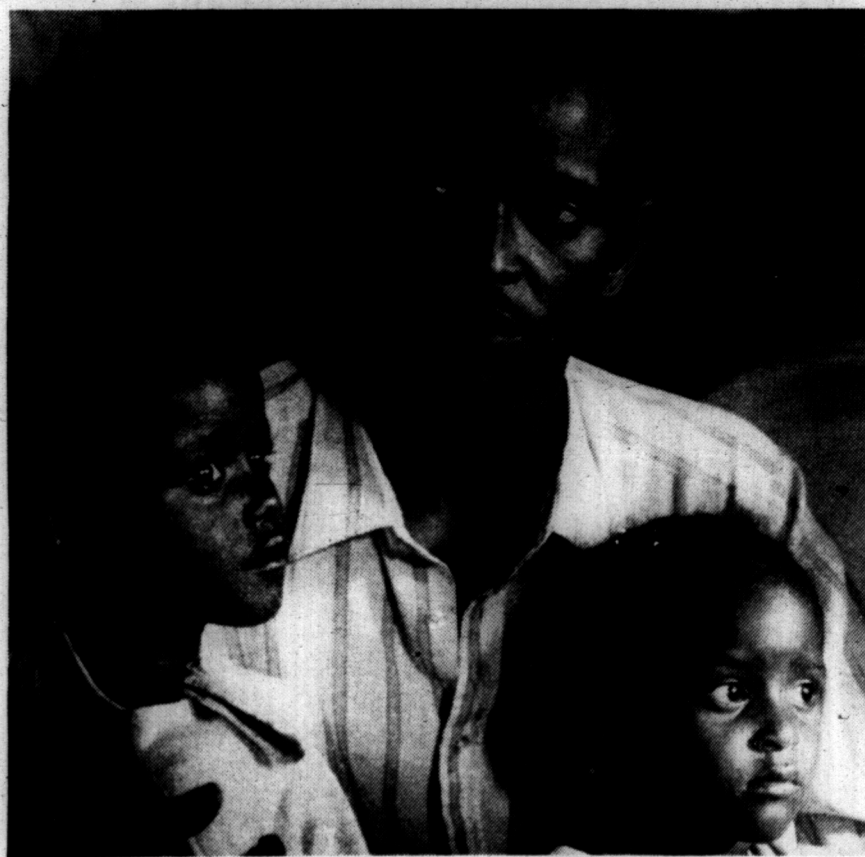
Linda went and interrupted her husband, who was plowing through paperwork in his office. "I think you better come hear what this guy has to say," she told him.

Witte would soon become partners with Wario to begin a church among the Boran.

Today Boran Baptist Church in Nairobi averages 15-30 in worship while undertaking an ambitious visitation and Bible study/prayer meeting program that fills up six days of the week. The struggling congregation is spearheading establishment of a church in the unevangelized Boran homeland, 350 miles north on the Ethiopian border.

"My folks could never have dreamed what would happen because they took Abdi home," Linda said. "They were just doing their job as Christians the best they knew how. God just blessed their faithfulness."

And her own.



**PROUD TO BE CHRISTIAN** — The Boran of Kenya, overwhelmingly Muslim, are a proud people. Ali Mayu (center) is no exception. But he's proud to be Boran and Christian. He adorns his rented room with signs displaying the words "Jesus is all I need," Bible verses, and religious drawings. Local Muslim leaders tried to talk him out of his new faith, then to help his wife find a new Muslim husband. She stayed at Mayu's side and also became a Christian. "Since they see we will stay in Christianity, they won't have anything to do with me," Mayu reported.

explained. "But Mohammed told me my Dad had found him walking the streets one day and challenged him about why he wasn't in school. Then my folks wound up paying his fees so he could go to carpentry school and bought him tools he's still using today to

## Prayer vigil for Muslim world will coincide with month of Ramadan

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — There's only one way to scale the towering walls of Fortress Islam with the Christian gospel, say experts on the Muslim world — with prayer.

Christians may spend 30 days doing just that Feb. 11-March 12 — coinciding with Ramadan, the annual Muslim period of prayer and fasting — as they join other Christians in praying for Muslims around the world.

For the second year, the Foreign Mission Board is asking missionaries, churches, individuals, Woman's Missionary Union groups, and denominational leaders to set aside a month for prayer, using the booklet "30 Days: Muslim Prayer Focus."

The booklet, published by

Youth With a Mission, contains information provided by numerous evangelical groups committed to Muslim ministry. It explains the basics of Islam, identifies major Muslim populations, and focuses each day on a different subject of prayer — Muslim leaders, cities, trouble spots, refugees, converts to Christianity, and the like. It may be used by individuals or groups.

Free copies of the booklet may be obtained from the Foreign Mission Board's customer services office. Call toll-free at 1-800-866-FMB1 or write FMB Customer Services at Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

Lewis Myers, FMB vice president for strategies to reach World A, stressed the first and most important evangelism

strategy is prayer.

"One of the first efforts we want to put in place in the new World A strategy role is to find a way to call on the global Christian community to join in prayer for Muslim ministries," Myers said. "This is one of the ways we're going to get at World A" — the least-evangelized portion of the globe.

Last year's 30 days of prayer for Muslims "greatly heightened awareness of who Muslims are, where they live, how we might relate to them both here and around the world, and how our personnel are trying to minister to and among them," Myers added.

The Foreign Mission Board also has declared 1995 a "Year of Prayer for the Muslim Peoples."



# HouseTops

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

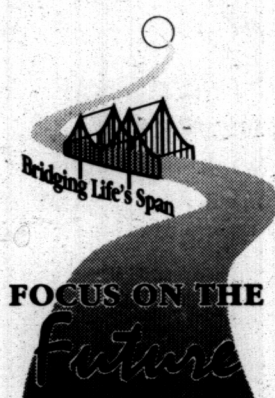
February 10, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## GUIDING TEENS WHO HELP CHILDREN TO BECOME CHRISTIANS

by Sean P. Keith  
Youth Consultant  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

Teenagers are increasingly becoming more involved in opportunities that enable them to share with children how to become Christians. Every year teenagers are assisting or even leading in Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Clubs, mission trips and the like. Proper training can guide youth in helping children to make the most important decision of their lives.



In training youth to prepare for the opportunity of leading children in how to become a Christian, several considerations must be made. First of all, are the youth Christians? Don't overlook the obvious, they may or may not have ever made the decision themselves. Second, they need to care about the children with whom they will be working. What are the underlying motives of the youth who will be involved? Third, they need to have an adequate understanding of what to say and what not to say. Children are literal-minded. Often times, the words, phrases, or symbols we use may be confusing to or misunderstood by children. Last, they need to understand their role and the role of the Holy Spirit in helping children discover the gift of salvation. God can and does choose to use teenagers in sharing their faith with children. God's spirit empowers the one sharing and enlightens the one receiving. This is possible only by God's spirit.

An important aspect not to overlook is follow-up. Immediate and long term follow-up is necessary for the spiritual growth of a new Christian. Whether done by the individual sharing the experience with the child or another concerned individual, careful plans need to be made as to what happens next.

Regardless of the event or opportunity that youth will have with children, take care that proper training should be given to every youth who will guide children in how to become a Christian.

Some resources that you might find helpful are below:

Davis, Cos H. *Children And The Christian Faith*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1990.

**Guiding Teens** continued on back page

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ALL-STATE YOUTH CHOIR

### Audition dates:

- February 15, Midway BC, Meridian
- February 17, FBC, Biloxi
- February 18, Easthaven BC, Brookhaven
- February 19, University BC, Hattiesburg (9 a.m.-2 p.m.)
- February 21, FBC, Greenwood

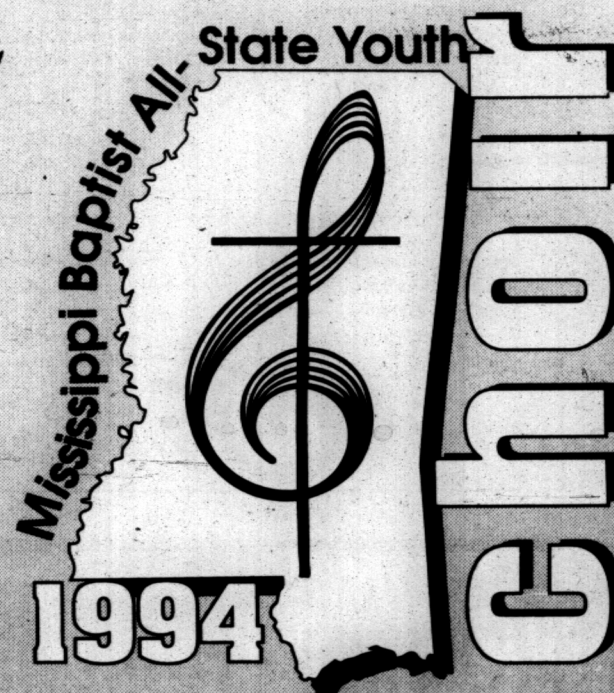
### Auditions will include:

- A solo (no tapes)
- Sightreading
- Tonal Memory
- Singing their voice part from a hymn

**Registration Deadline:** One week prior to audition.

**Audition Fee:** \$3.00

**For more information contact:** The Church Music Department at (601) 968-3800, ext. 3867



...in concert...

February 27, 1994

### DRY CREEK BC

4:00 P.M.

**Pastor:**

Rev. Jerry Glass

**Minister of Music:**

Miss Susan Clark

.....

Garrett Road off  
Star/Brandon Road

### FBC, BRANDON

6:00 P.M.

**Pastor:**

Dr. Gene Henderson

**Minister of Music:**

Rev. Farley Earnest

.....

309 South College Street  
Brandon, MS 39042



pray this day....

February 16-28, 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Prayer Ministry Office P. O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone: 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY			that your church will set a good Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal and reach it; no, exceed it  <b>16</b>	that studying about, praying for, and giving an extra gift to missions will lead someone in your church to become a missionary  <b>17</b>	for many of the 600,000 refugees and immigrants who come to the United States each year who cannot speak English  <b>18</b>	for the 60 percent of adults in America who are not in any worship experience each week  <b>19</b>
for the partners in new marriages, half of which will end in divorce  <b>20</b>	for the segment of Americans who spend \$60 billion each year on cocaine  <b>21</b>	for the families and friends of victims killed, one every twenty-four minutes, by a drunk driver; and for the driver  <b>22</b>	for the more than 50 percent of seventh graders and nearly 90 percent of high school seniors who have tried alcohol  <b>23</b>	for the 31 percent of high school students who are alcohol-abusers (that is, they are drunk six or more times a year)  <b>24</b>	for the 15 percent of high school students who are heavy drinkers or problem drinkers (that is, they drink at least once a week with five or more drinks per occasion)  <b>25</b>	for the nearly 130,000 teenagers injured each year in alcohol-related accidents  <b>26</b>
for the families and friends of the 5,000 teenagers killed each year by drunken-driving accidents  <b>27</b>	for the people involved in Home Mission Board's efforts to help people affected by all these sad facts, that we will support the work  <b>28</b>	Continuing to pray for people, events, issues, needs, projects, and all kinds of work which are a part of our Home Mission Board's work. The theme for a Season of Home Missions is: "It's Your Serve - Minister in Christ's Name." Serving through giving a significant gift through the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions will count toward the survival of the fantastic home missions work of the Home Mission Board. Again, statistics come from JFM DIMENSION.				

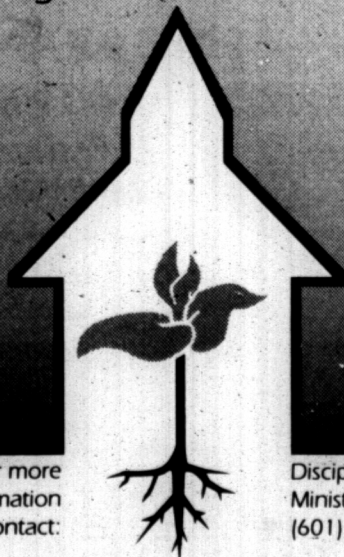
## GROWING CHURCHES for Tomorrow

**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**  
Pass Christian, Miss.

*A conference for training  
all Brotherhood, Discipleship  
Training, Sunday School  
& WMU leaders*

**Choose either of these dates.**

- I - July 7-9, 1994
- II - July 14-16, 1994
- III - July 28-30, 1994
- IV - August 4-6, 1994



For more  
information  
contact:

Discipleship & Family  
Ministry at  
(601) 968-3800, ext. 3883

Mississippi Churches and Associations Meeting Missions Needs

### Mississippi River Ministry Convocation

**Conference & Exhibits**  
for Missions Leaders  
in Associations and Churches

For more information, contact the Missions Extension and Assoc. Administration Dept. at (601)968-3800, ext. 3961.

**NEEDS**

- Medical
- Housing
- Poverty
- Gambling
- Missions Ministry
- Cultural Barriers
- Reading Skills/Abilities
- Unemployment
- Hunger

First Baptist Church  
Jackson, Miss.

**March 11-12, 1994**

Keynote Speakers  
**Jerry Clower,**  
 Mississippi Humorist  
**Don Moore,**  
 Executive Director  
 Arkansas Baptist Convention

# HOUSE OF GODS



# VOLUNTEER & SMALL CHURCH YOUTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE

**March 18, 1994**  
First Baptist Church, Sardis:  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
**March 19, 1994**  
Faith Baptist Church, Starkville:  
9:30 a.m. - Noon



**MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTIST WORLD  
PARTNERSHIPS**

## PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

Zimbabwe, Alaska and Honduras are all familiar names to Mississippi Baptists who read the Baptist Record and HouseTops.

They all have one thing in common, they need volunteers to help meet needs.

For example:

1. Zimbabwe is involved in starting churches where there are none.

Volunteers are needed to do personal witnessing and preaching. Lay persons as well as staff persons are needed for 18 days in May, June, July, September, and October.

2. Several Alaska opportunities await - concrete finishers are needed in Fairbanks in June, or August and September. Sheetrock work is needed in Anchorage.

3. Construction crews are requested for several places in Honduras during most of 1994. Evangelism projects are also available.

Inquiries should be made regarding dates, availability or cost to the Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 601/968-3800, ext. 3835

LEADER  
AUDIENCE  
PURPOSE  
FINANCES



**RICHARD ROSS**, Consultant,  
Youth Ministry, Baptist Sunday  
School Board, Nashville

Volunteer and part-time persons who work with youth ministry in the smaller membership church.

Participants will discover basic principles that can lead to a balanced, comprehensive, and effective youth ministry in the smaller membership church.

There is no cost for attending this conference.

AGENDA

- Welcome, Prayer, and Introduction
- How to Create a Successful Youth Program in the Smaller Church
- Break
- Ideas That Work with a Smaller Youth Group
- Adjourn

## NEW EMPHASIS PLACED ON HELPING CHURCHES REACH PEOPLE THROUGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, has announced a renewed interest in assisting churches in reaching people through the Sunday School by utilizing the planning tool called the Growth Spiral. The Growth Spiral was introduced to Southern Baptists by its creator, Andy Anderson, in 1977. Since then, hundreds of churches have utilized this tool to evaluate and plan the work of the church.

When Andy Anderson retired from the Sunday School Board, it was uncertain as to the future of the Growth Spiral. During 1993 the BSSB undertook a study to see what tools would be needed to assist churches in reaching people for the remainder of this century and into the next. It was determined the Growth Spiral, with a few changes, would still be a very valuable tool. The changes have been made and church leaders are being encouraged to look again to the Growth Spiral as a tool to assist them in:

1. EVALUATING THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CHURCH
2. SETTING GOALS IN A VARIETY OF AREAS
3. EVALUATING THE PROGRESS TOWARD THESE GOALS

The EIGHTH ANNUAL STATE-WIDE GROWTH SPIRAL MEETING will be held on February 22, 1994, at the Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg. Ken Marler, growth consultant for the BSSB and a former pastor in Mississippi, will be leading the meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend the meeting. However, the Growth Spiral Notebook inserts will be on sale for \$5 each. Lunch will be prepared by Temple Baptist Church and served at a cost of \$5 per person. There is only 30 minutes allotted for lunch.

### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Church name _____	
Address _____	Phone _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Person making reservations _____	Home phone: _____
No. of people attending _____	
Our church is currently enrolled in the Growth Spiral: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
We have attended a state Growth Spiral Conference: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	



# BW/BYW RETREAT

BAPTIST WOMEN/  
BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN



## RETREAT

FEBRUARY 25-26, 1994  
CAMP GARAYWA

*Making a Difference*

*Treat yourself to a February*

**R E T R E A T !**

*With KeyNoters... Betty Bock of Birmingham, author of the new release  
You Can Make a Difference. From Betty, you'll gain insight into helping change  
hurtful situations which keep others from experiencing wholeness of life.*

*and*

*our own Stuart Calvert of Ashland, author of the new Uniquely Gifted. She will  
enable us to discover our spiritual gifts and determine the best way to use them.*

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

SHARON VINCENT, new Baptist Young Women Specialist, WMU/SBC, Birmingham  
SINGALONG with CINDY COON, State WMU Office Staff  
and join our state WMU staff in a time of  
**RENEWAL • RELEASE • REUNION**

**TIME:** 4 p.m., Registration; 6 p.m., Supper --Lunch, Saturday

**COST:** \$23 per person, Please bring linens

### REGISTRATION FORM

BW/BYW RETREAT • CAMP GARAYWA, CLINTON • FEBRUARY 25-26, 1993

(Please enclose \$23 per person)

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_

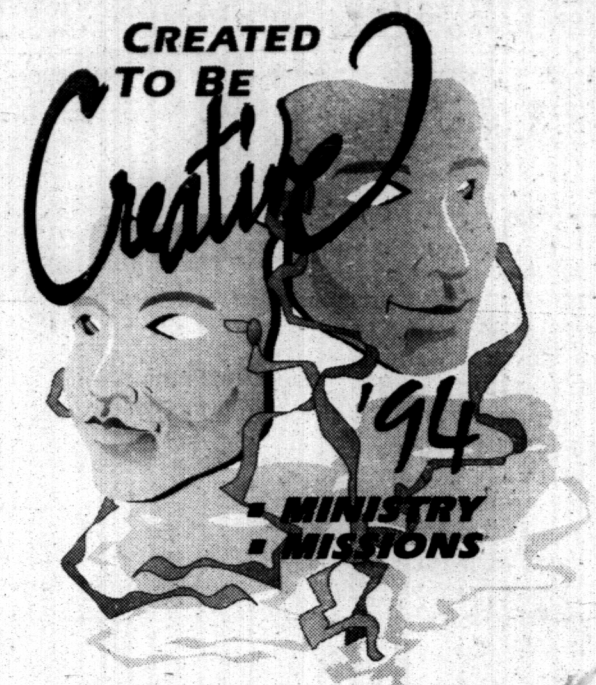
Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s)

Person sending registration \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to: Camp Garaywa)  
Mail to: Camp Garaywa, P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060  
**DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 18, 1994**



## CHRISTIAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

**FEBRUARY 25-26, 1994**

**CROSSGATES BAPTIST CHURCH  
BRANDON, MISS.**

**COST:**  
**PIZZA & PERFORMANCE - \$6**  
**FESTIVAL - \$14**

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
**Wes Pegues at (601)968-3800, Ext. 3884**

### Guiding Teens continued from front page

Davis, Cos H. *Building Bridges*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1985.

Ingle, Clifford. *Children And Conversion*. Nashville, TN: Broadmoor Press, 1970.

Neighbour, Ralph W., Jr. *Survival Kit For New Christians*. Nashville, TN: Convention Press, 1991.

Young, William E. *Now That I'm A Christian*. Nashville, TN: Convention Press, 1993.

Pamphlets available through the Children's Program Section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, TN, 37234.

• *Counseling Children About Christian Conversion and Church Membership.*

• *Children's Workers Ministering and Witnessing Tell All The Children*

• *How To Become A Christian.*

Produced and published by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



# Letters to the editor

## Grateful for Record

Editor:

My Baptist Record came in the morning mail and I found many things to be grateful for.

The first thing was the name of my pastor, Glenn Nace of Kokomo Church, who was in California helping earthquake victims as part of the Brotherhood Disaster [Relief] Team. [Nace] left last Friday and is scheduled to return the 28th. He has been our pastor for 10 years.

Another article made me sad and happy at the same time. I had heard about the young man from Brandon, Brad Boatner, losing his life in Honduras, but it seemed more personal when I read about him. What a 17-year-old! Wouldn't this world be a better place if we had more like him? I think most of us parents and grandparents would worry less about the world we are leav-

ing in our children's hands. Brad's parents must be so pleased with the son God loaned them for a while.

I trust that the others who were injured in the same accident are doing well and anxious to again become part of a team of "missionaries" to Honduras. I wish them well.

Peggy Thornhill  
Kokomo

## Broaden home tent

Editor:

You wrote an article in the Dec. 9, 1993, edition of *The Baptist Record* that really struck in my mind and heart. It was called, "Broadening the Tent"; your point was excellent. However, I fear it flew over the heads of our pastors and state leadership.

You said the process of nomination for committees, boards, and commissions may need to be

changed to broaden the base of participation. Being a pastor in the northwest corner of our state, I must admit that most of us feel left out and cut off from the workings of our convention. While it may be true we are a suburb of Memphis, our membership, loyalty, and Cooperative Program dollars still go to Jackson. It would be so nice to be treated like a brother and not a "step-child."

I found a map of the state of Mississippi in some of my convention material which had our state divided into nine regions. I decided to weigh my feelings of being left out against the facts. On Nov. 25, 1993, *The Baptist Record* published this year's Committee on Nominations' report. I quickly went through the names and tried to place them in their proper geographical regions. Of our 13 boards and commissions with their 152 slots of ser-

vice, only six nominees come from the northwestern region where I serve. The Jackson region had 48, plus six members at large on the Convention Board. Other areas also had unusually large or extremely small representation in places of service.

It is not my intent to sound like the typical "grumpy" Baptist. However, I do agree with your article that it is time to try to "broaden the tent" before some very talented people decide to pull up stakes.

In closing, I would like to make one final observation. "The border of Mississippi does not end at Grenada; it goes all the way to Stateline Road in DeSoto County." I pray for the day our opportunities to serve our convention extend that far.

Jim Butler  
Trinity Church  
Southaven

## Thanks to YEC

Editor:

I want to take this means of commending the Youth Evangelism Conference Committee for a superb job of planning and conducting the 1993 Youth Evangelism Conference. Those on the committee deserve a big thank-you for their efforts and the Evangelism Department for all their work behind the scenes that helped make this event the success it was... THANKS. Teenagers from all over Mississippi were changed forever.

Thanks also to Mississippi College and First Church, Clinton, for allowing us the use of their facilities.

Don Lum  
First Church  
Columbia

## Only one plan

Editor:

This is in reply to the Jan. 20 letter entitled, "Alter salvation plan?"

God has given one, and only one, plan of salvation. That plan is the scriptural plan; no other is of any avail. Our task is to bring a lost sinner face to face with Christ. Christ must be presented clearly, lovingly, and prayerfully. Only Christ can save. Christ is not only the scriptural plan of salvation, he is "the" plan of salvation.

Each Scripture presented to a lost person should be explained so that the person understands. More explanation would be needed in witnessing to one who has not been in a good Bible study group on a regular basis or attending an evangelical church. Nevertheless, without the convicting power of the Holy Spirit a person cannot be saved.

As far as the writer using Revelation 22:18-19 concerning the "adding to" or "taking away" as to the plan of salvation, I would reply: "Book" refers to the

roll containing the Revelation. The Greek word is singular. If it had referred to the whole New Testament the word would have been plural. Some New Testament books had not been written as yet. I do believe that the Word of God stands as is and one should not alter it, however.

James K. Burke  
Tylertown

**Editor's Note: The Sunday School Board is not altering the plan of salvation but altering the methods of its presentation.**

## Thanks from West

Editor:

Mississippi Baptists have assisted their sister churches in Wyoming in many ways over the years and we in Wyoming are very grateful. In particular, First Church of Florence has blessed our church with needed financial assistance for several years which has allowed us to survive during hard economic times.

We continue to pray for First, Florence, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention that God will bless you in your evangelistic outreach programs.

Gordon E. Roe, pastor  
Sunrise Baptist Church  
Casper, Wyo.

## Response from D.C.

Editor:

Your recent article quoting Richard Land about the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 is somewhat misleading. While it is theoretically possible that the Court will declare RFRA unconstitutional as Land suggests, the likelihood that it will do so is rather slim.

Numerous constitutional scholars have reviewed RFRA and confirmed its constitutionality. Moreover, Congress is not trying to tell the Supreme Court how it must decide cases. It only creates a statutory right where the Supreme Court, in *Employment vs. Smith* (1990), failed to recognize a constitutional right to free exercise of religion. Third, the Constitution sets a floor on our rights; it does not erect a ceiling. There is nothing at all improper about Congress according greater rights than those which the Supreme Court says are in the Constitution itself. Finally, in *Smith* — the very case that spawned the need for RFRA — Justice Scalia invited disappointed litigants to go to the legislative branch for relief rather than coming to court. That is precisely what we have done.

One should never say never. But, I think the possibility that the Supreme Court will strike down this very important and much-needed legislation was a bit overstated.

J. Brent Walker, general counsel  
Baptist Joint Committee  
Washington, D.C.

## Greater Gulf Coast Bible Conference

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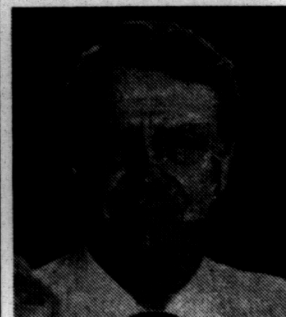
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Beginning Monday March 7-11

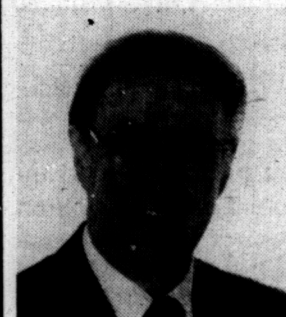
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## Just for the Record



**Riverport Church, Greenville,** recently held groundbreaking ceremonies for its new sanctuary. Neal Cordell, pastor, and members of the building committee, pictured from left, are Raymond Oswald, Granville Vaughan, James Oswald, Cordell, Wayne Stringfellow, Gracie Menhel, Mavis Odom, Raymond Hicks, Henry Odom, Marie Ware, and Travis Jones.

**The Mississippi College 50 Year Club** will celebrate the 100th birthday of Anise Pickering McDaniel in the fellowship hall at **First Church, Clinton,** Feb. 26, from 2-4 p.m.

**The sign language class of Bellevue Church, Hattiesburg,** will lead in a worship service, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. Michael Shumock is pastor.

## Staff Changes

**Armond D. Taylor,** pastor of Summerwood Church, Northwest Association, for the past 10 years, announces his plans to retire effective Feb. 28. He is available for supply or interim and may be reached at 895-5929. A reception in honor of Taylor and his wife will be held on Feb. 13, 2-4 p.m. in the Summerwood fellowship hall.



Taylor

**Ebenezer Church, Bassfield,** has called **B. Alfred Jones** as pastor effective Jan. 1. A native of Marion County, he received his education at Mississippi College and the University of Southern

## John David Hedgepeth, minister, dies

John David Hedgepeth, 57, died of heart failure Sunday, Jan. 30, at his home in Monticello.

Services were held Feb. 1 at Antioch Church, Brookhaven.

Hedgepeth pastored churches in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi for 38 years and was pastor of Antioch Church at the time of his death.

Survivors include his wife, Helene; sons, John Wayne Hedgepeth of Osyka and David Wade Hedgepeth of Jayess; daughters, Lisa Baggett of McComb, Marcia Penny of Sheridan, Ark., Cindi Blackburn of Blackrock, Ark., and Sandi Ladd of Monticello; brother, Ken Hedgepeth of Monticello; sisters, Aline Dunn of Monticello and Carole Seale of Meadville; and 13 grandchildren.

**Carriage Hills Church, Southaven,** will dedicate its newly furnished facilities at 11 a.m. on Feb. 13. Other activities include Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., lunch at noon, and special music and baptismal services after lunch. Carriage Hills was chartered in 1966. The first sanctuary was converted into an education building in the early '70s, and the present sanctuary was built at that same time. Renovation on the sanctuary was begun last June.

**Living Beyond your Limits,** a workshop for singles, will be hosted by **First Church, Jackson,** March 4-6. Registration begins at 6 p.m. on March 4. The featured speaker will be Evangelist Andy Morgan, former host of Detroit's "Solo Flight," a nightly single adult radio call-in talk show. Points of Grace will present a concert on March 6 at 7 p.m. Call 949-1906 to pre-register or for more information.

The second annual **Copiah Association Girls in Action Mission Adventures Fair** was held at **Highland Church, Crystal Springs,** on Jan. 22. There were 117 in attendance with nine churches represented. Special guest was Talmadge Smith, director of missions for Copiah-Lincoln Association. Ann Rials is Copiah Association GA director. The Mission Action Project held Nov. 6 was represented by eight churches with 94 attending. They took goodie boxes to the boys at Dickerson Place Baptist Children's Village in Brookhaven.

**First Church, Kosciusko,** will host a **Singles' Conference** Feb. 18-20. Nancy Burgess of Tucker, Ga., will be the leader. The conference theme is "Coping with Crises," and deals with crisis of belief, oppression, and disobedience, loss and disappointment with God, and contentment. Call (601) 289-5575 for more information. Barry C. Corbett is pastor.

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## NOBTS hosts Women's Leadership Consultation

The "Women's Leadership Consultation IV" conference will be held Feb. 25-26 at New Orleans Seminary.

This consultation, coordinated by Jo Ann Leavell and Rhonda Kelley, will feature keynote speaker Carol Childress, research consultant from Tyler, Texas.

Other speakers will include Esther Burroughs and Dellanna O'Brien.

With the theme "Think Globally, Act Locally," the conference will feature both general sessions and small group discussions, as well as informal interaction with other women involved in church work.

Cost is \$50 per person, which covers registration fee, all meals, and conference materials.

For information on housing or to register, call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3320.

## National conference on recovery, awakening set for March 17-19, Texas

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Church leaders seeking instruction for guiding their members to spiritual awakening and recovery from painful pasts can find it during a national conference March 17-19 in Euless, Texas.

**Fresh Encounter and Experiencing God** author Henry Blackaby and Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr., will be among the keynote speakers at the National Conference on Recovery and Spiritual Awakening, to be held at the First Church of Euless.

Other program personalities will include Robert S. McGee, author of *Search for Significance* and president of RAPHA, a hospital-based

recovery program; Ron Dunn, minister and Bible teacher from Irving, Texas; and Christian artist Cynthia Clawson.

The conference will train church leaders to help individuals who struggle with critical life issues such as painful pasts, low self-worth, codependency, eating disorders, chemical dependency, life's losses, divorce, and sexual abuse recovery. The conference is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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## Southern Baptist aid helps many in former Yugoslavia

DORFWEIL, Germany (BP) — Southern Baptist aid is the only thing keeping many Serbians and Croats from hunger as war drags on in the former Yugoslavia.

Serbian Baptists say the war and United Nations-imposed sanctions have destroyed their economy. A retired person's entire monthly pension check buys only one or two eggs, said Avram Dega, a Baptist pastor in Vrsac, near the Romanian border. Some people have had no meat for months.

"There is a lack of almost everything now," Dega said while attending a Baptist conference on human rights and religious freedom Jan. 26-30 in Dorfweil, Germany.

The United Nations and other organizations are having problems getting food and medical supplies into Serbia. But Southern Baptists have just launched their third major aid program in the region, and it is delivering tons of food to Christians and thousands of refugees, said Southern Baptist missionary Bill Steele.

Steele coordinates the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's relief program from his base in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He and his wife Debbie, of Columbus, Ga., and their two children lived in Belgrade, Serbia, until worsening conditions last year forced them to relocate to Slovenia.

Southern Baptist aid is being delivered in Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia with help from Baptists living in all three areas. The civil war ravaging these remains of Yugoslavia has killed thousands and caused one of the biggest

refugee movements since World War II.

Southern Baptists' first \$225,000 aid program two years ago delivered 400 tons of food to the region. The second one, last year, delivered \$250,000 worth of food — 480 tons.

A third \$250,000 program already has delivered 80 tons of food since December. More aid will be delivered in the next two months. An additional \$50,000 is providing about 50 tons of food to southern Serbia, the area formerly known as Montenegro.

## Agricultural Missions sets meeting for February 18

Two agricultural missionaries will highlight Agricultural Mission Fellowship's (AMF) annual meeting at First Church, Belzoni, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m.

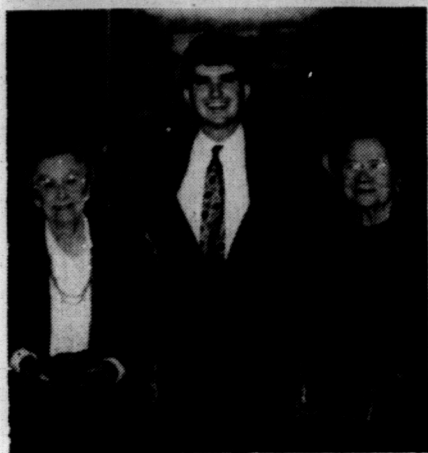
Former missionary and Mississippi College official, Larry Cox, president, will preside over the meeting.

Indiana native and Montana State graduate David Brownfield will tell about his agricultural missionary work in Ethiopia.

Brownfield was appointed an agricultural missionary to Ethiopia in July 1988.

Darrel E. Garner, the other missionary speaker, has been doing agricultural work and church development in Malawi since 1970. The native of Oklahoma received degrees from the University of Arkansas Brownfield and attended Southwestern Seminary.

A noon meal will be served.



Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty, recognized two of its members for their many years of service. They were Hazel Reynolds, the oldest member of the church, and Nina Stewart. Pictured with Scott Capleman, pastor, are Reynolds, left, and Stewart, right.

Perry Neal, former pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis, and associate ministry with First Church, Biloxi, has entered his 20th year in full time evangelistic preaching. He has been in the ministry for 36 years. He has worked in Honduras, Canada, and was on a fact finding tour of China. Neal is a graduate of Samford University and New Orleans Seminary. Neal lives at 4418 Wares Ferry Road, Montgomery, AL 36109-3202.

The Cumberland Boys Quartet from Nashville, Tenn., will be in concert at New Hope Church, Gulfport, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. For more information, call 832-1975.

Billy A. Melvin has announced that he will terminate his services as executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) on March 31, 1995, completing 28 years in the association's top post. Under his leader-

ship the association has grown by 70% and today represents some 50,000 local churches from 75 denominations.

The Magnolia State Quartet from Brookhaven will present a concert at First Church, Braxton at 6 p.m. on Feb. 13. Sammy J. McDonald is pastor.



Mississippi Baptist Evangelists elected officers for 1994 at the recent Evangelism Conference in Jackson. They are: Brad Jones (above left), Meridian, president; Jimmy Knight (above right), Laurel, vice president; and Jerry Swimmer (right), luka, secretary/treasurer.

## Revival Dates

Straight Bayou Church, Anguilla: Feb. 13-16; 7 p.m. and noonday services; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m.; William Blackburn, Ft. Smith, Ark., evangelist; Kenny Daniels, Mt. View, Ark., music; high attendance for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Brad Banks, pastor.

New Zion, Walnut Grove: Feb. 14-18; 7 p.m. nightly; special music each night; Edward Knox, evangelist; Barney Watkins, pastor.

## Missionary News

Donald and Carol Minshew, missionaries to Angola, are in the States (address: 342 Dixie Hills Dr., Hernando, MS 38632). He was born in Macon, Ga., and considers Memphis Tenn., his hometown. She is the former Carol Peyton of Memphis.

## Jo W. Stover, retired Brazilian missionary, dies

WOODSTOCK, Conn. — Retired Southern Baptist missionary Jo Stover, who served in Brazil 38 years, died of cancer Feb. 3 in Woodstock, Conn. She was 78. The former Jo Withauer from Washington, D.C., she was appointed in 1947 as a missionary to Brazil by the Foreign Mission Board. Two years later she married missionary T. B. Stover, then director of the Carroll Memorial Baptist Publishing House in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He died in 1954.

## Smell something funny? Could be serious.

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*I have been married for 20 years to a Christian man with plenty of good qualities. At times, however, he is moody and ill-tempered. It has gotten worse over the past few years, and with two teenagers to deal with on a daily basis, life with him seems almost unbearable. I don't know how to have peace with him. I pray for him.*

appearance sparkling, and your life in balance. You may win him over without saying a word.

*I wish I could get off medication for depression. My Christian friends tell me that I can get off the medication if I will pray. Do you have any suggestions?*

Depression — literally "frozen rage or "anger turned inward" — is caused by many factors. Clinical depression is a real as diabetes. Chemical imbalances can lead to the need for medication in both cases, and just as a diabetic needs insulin, the clinically depressed need antidepressants. Counseling or therapy can help you identify and work through hurts, grief, and anger. A therapist, good friend, or support group can help you understand you are not alone and that there are others who will allow you to work through your hurt. Your Sunday School class, and friends who will pray for you, can be a source of strength in this time of confusion. Out of a lack of knowledge your friends may seem condemning, when in reality they do not understand depression. *Happiness is a Choice* by Minirth and Walker is an excellent resource for gaining such understanding.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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## Civic league boosts MC funds

Cheryl Moss of Clinton, right, recently presented two checks to Rory Lee, acting president of Mississippi College, out of the proceeds of the 1993 Clinton Junior League Arts and Crafts Fair. Moss was 1993 co-chairman of the annual event held on the MC campus. One proceeds check will be placed in the college's general fund; the other will be applied toward a Department of Art scholarship. (MC photo)

## Texans in midst of school prayer debate resolutions

DALLAS (BP) — School prayer resolutions approved by more than half of the counties in Texas show that some politicians are willing to trade religious liberty for social and religious control, a Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission official has charged.

Weston Ware, Texas CLC citizenship associate, said the resolutions in effect propose that children in public schools be exposed to the prayers of whatever religious majority may control that school's board.

Resolutions urging that prayer be reinstated in public schools have been approved by commissioners courts in 134 Texas counties, city councils in more than 50 municipalities and the boards of several school districts.

Scott Arney, Denton County commissioner, introduced the first such resolution last June 22 and has spearheaded the effort to get other counties and local governing bodies to endorse the measure.

The resolution approved by the Denton County Commissioners Court stated in part that the United States "was founded on the free-

dom of religion and was not founded on the freedom from religion."

Reinstating public school prayers would move the nation back to its religious-based moral foundations, according to the resolution.

While there are genuine problems in public education, the absence of classroom prayers is not their cause and the inclusion of such prayers would not be their solution, Ware countered.

Arney maintained that the goal of the resolution is to end "bigotry and intolerance" toward Christians who are told to "leave their faith at the door" when they enter public schools.

But the religious free speech rights of students already are protected under the Equal Access Act of 1984, according to Ware. Under the act — upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990 — if a public secondary school allows student-initiated groups to meet on campus during non-instructional time, the school cannot discriminate on the basis of the religious, political, or philosophical content of the speech at such meetings.

## Two deans, one with Mississippi ties, appointed to Southern Seminary posts

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Two deans have been appointed at Southern Seminary, including one to lead the seminary's new school of evangelism.

Named to lead the new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth was Birmingham, Ala., pastor and author Thom Rainer, 38, a 1988 doctor of philosophy graduate of Southern.

The other dean, Lloyd Mims, will lead the seminary's School of Church Music. A faculty member since 1984, Mims replaces Milburn Price, who left the seminary last July, citing differences of opinion with the then-incoming president. Price now is chair of Samford University's Church Music Department.

Mims, 43, completed the doctor of musical arts degree at

# Surgeon general urges churches to health care leadership role

ATLANTA (BP) — Integration, not separation, of church and state is needed to resolve America's health care problems, the U.S. surgeon general told 150 religious leaders.

"You've got power, prestige, and positions of influence. We've got scientific knowledge and no power. We need your leadership to get things done," Joycelyn Elders said during an interfaith meeting in Atlanta Jan. 23-25.

The meeting was sponsored by the Interfaith Health Program of the Carter Center, an Atlanta-based public policy institute led by former President Jimmy Carter.

Elders said her brother, a United Methodist minister, made her aware of an informal network of ministers when she tried to start school-based health clinics in Arkansas. She credited the ministers' support, in part, for changes in the Arkansas health system, including a reduction in teen pregnancies.

Churches can be involved in preventive medicine by becoming partners with public health agencies, Elders said.

Fred Loper, physician and Southern Baptist home missionary, affirmed the need for churches to cooperate with other groups to provide health care. Most churches do not have the professional staff or the financial resources to independently address health needs, noted Loper, a conference participant.

Congregations should wrestle with the issues to develop their response, said Dwight Jackson, pastor of Webster Groves Church, Webster Groves, Mo. If churches do not address health concerns, "solutions will be based on economic rather than moral principles," he said.

Jackson, a former Southern Baptist foreign missionary, works with the Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis which represents 1,300 congregations in more than 35 denominations. "We don't identify a response that everybody has to follow," Jackson said. "We're never going to agree on everything. We just agree that there's a problem."

Speaking to the group 24 hours before Elders, Jimmy Carter predicted Congress will water down Clinton's proposals, leaving gaps in health care that

churches can fill.

"Be ready to move forward," Carter said. "There couldn't be a more propitious time for you to be involved in health care and to serve God through the alleviation of suffering of fellow human beings."

Some ways Carter suggested for churches to be involved are making childhood immunizations more accessible, caring for the elderly, and offering basic examinations in their facilities. Carter said he favors an increased tax on tobacco products and he also urged church leaders to speak against behaviors that cause

health problems.

The Christian Life Commission has developed two documents to help Christians judge health care reform proposals. The documents will be distributed to all Southern Baptist pastors and are available from the CLC in Nashville.

The Home Mission Board offers resources to churches wanting to begin programs ranging from respite care for the disabled to after-school programs for children. For information, call the HMB church and community ministries department at (404) 898-7401.

## Clinton plan will force churches to fund abortion, CLC's Mitchell says

By Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Clinton's health care proposal would force churches and denominations to pay for abortions or face the consequences, a Christian Life Commission staff member said in a congressional hearing.

"Every congregation as an employer would be coerced to take money from the offering plate and offer it up to abortionists," said Ben Mitchell, the CLC's director of biomedical and life issues. "The choices would be extremely limited: Pay up and shut up or face the harsh repercussions of following religious conscience. There would be no 'safe harbor.'"

The CLC will "oppose vigorously" the Clinton proposal and any other plan which includes abortion coverage in its basic benefits package, Mitchell told a House of Representatives subcommittee.

"This is such a critical concern for us that we are prepared to oppose any reform which is otherwise excellent if it also includes abortion on demand," he said.

Mitchell offered his warning in a Jan. 26 hearing on women's health and the Clinton plan before the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

His testimony included pointed criticism of the "conscience clause" language in Clinton's plan.

"The so-called 'religious exemption' or 'conscience clause' is a presidential placebo for the pain of a wounded conscience, intended to try to make religious persons feel better about their participation in the morally nauseating practice of abortion," Mitchell said in written testimony also prepared for delivery but removed because of a time limit.

"Religious institutions will either harden their consciences toward the killing of unborn babies, as the president's plan tempts them to do, or religious institutions will follow their consciences by engaging in wide-

spread civil disobedience," he said. "In a nation which has ranked religious freedom as its first liberty, it is unconscionable that our government would force us to make that choice."

The CLC and other pro-life groups have described the "conscience clause" as meaningless. Though the Clinton plan does not require pro-life physicians, nurses, and hospitals to perform abortions, an administration official has said the "conscience clause" does not apply to health care plans. Taxes and employer contributions, apparently even from those morally opposed, would underwrite abortions indirectly, Clinton has told reporters.

The president's plan "recognizes that the abortion option is basic to women's health and must be covered," said Rep. Nita Lowey, R.-N.Y. "Absence of abortion coverage in a national plan would marginalize this basic procedure, rendering the legal right to choose meaningless for many American women. It would relegate this legal service once again to the back alley and put women's lives at risk."

Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R.-Nev., said the Clinton plan would make abortion a "federal entitlement."

"Every American who pays taxes would be funding abortions," she said. "Abortion without restrictions, funded by taxpayers, has no place in basic health coverage."

"Whatever our lawmakers choose to do, we must be true to our God, our convictions, and our conscience," Mitchell said. "We cannot do otherwise. We hope we will be able to stand with our elected officials for revisions and reforms in health care that will evidence our commitment to the intrinsic value of every human life."

Strobe is director, media and news information, Washington office, CLC.



## Uniform Accountable for our actions



By Doug Bain  
Luke 20

Biblical eschatology is usually understood to be the doctrine about last time events. But eschatology may actually be more about accountability — that one day all people, even believers, will give account for their behavior. When Scripture speaks about the day of judgment being near, it suggests that an ultimate kind of time is impinging on this world order, time that calls us to attention, to responsibility, to accountability.

One of the maladies of contemporary life is the loss of being called to answer for our ways and choices. Everybody in a position of leadership should be answerable to someone. Every pastor should be accountable to a personnel committee, every executive should be called in review before a review panel, every trustee should answer for his stewardship, every administrator should be subject to review and evaluation.

Structures for such accountability can be set in motion on the basis of good biblical precedent, including the fact that we are answerable to God. Luke 20:1-8 suggests that accountability and authority go hand in hand. The source of delegating authority is also the source for requiring accountability, in both an ultimate sense (God) and in an immediate sense (peers, committees).

A note of caution, however, is in order: accountability and forced conformity are not equivalent. The biblical doctrine of accountability is not foundational for judgmental witch hunting or political purging.

**Accountability for stewardship (vv. 9-16).** Jesus told a parable about a man who planted a vineyard, rented it out to tenants, and left home for a long period. When the owner sent servants on three occasions to collect his share of the harvest, the tenants refused to pay the owner's share and mistreated the servants. The owner finally decided to send his own son to the tenants, but they cast him out as well and even killed him. When Jesus said the owner would return to the vineyard, destroy the offenders, and give the vineyard to others, his hearers were shocked. We have to ask why they would find such a response offensive.

Every parable has limits beyond which it should not be pressed, and here God is not some absentee landlord. Several applications can be drawn, however, one being that we are to be responsible supervisors of all the gifts, opportunities, and possessions that God has provided. We are in Earth Garden to tend it. The tenants' mistreatment of the servants and the refusal to pay the owner's share suggests that we may well have acted as though the vineyard is ours to do with as we please. Plainly the parable also illumines Hebrew history and the rejection of God's "beloved Son." The "vineyard" was in fact eventually given to New Israel, the mission given to the church (v. 16).

**Accountability for responding to God's way (vv. 17-19).** The truth of accountability is that God has placed us to labor in the Earth Vineyard and to be tenders of the garden, stewards of the vineyard, developing person-potential as well as earth resources. He calls us to account for our style of management. Yet the text goes further, suggesting that we are responsible, too, for our response to God's supreme representative, Jesus.

Jesus quoted from Psalm 118, suggesting application ultimately to his rejection. The way rejected by people turns out to be God's way, and the One whom people reject turns out to be God's supreme representative. God's ways run radically counter to natural human tendencies. Human ways of evaluating and responding stand under God's judgment.

The religious officials were incensed and intimidated when they realized Jesus had been saying they would be accountable. Even in their religious practice they were rejecting God's truth. God's way may be a radical reversal of our ways as well, even in our religious practice. Our standards of spiritual success, righteous respectability, and godly greatness may not be light years removed from first-century "religious" standards condemned by Jesus. We are not exempt from accountability. The old-fashioned theme of judgment has been neglected to our detriment.

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

## Bible Book Healing the nobleman's son



By Dan Howard  
John 4

God is still in the healing business. Three years ago this month, a 13-year-old girl in our church was diagnosed with Ewings sarcoma, a type of bone cancer. Within her family and within our church family many emotions were expressed, but faith in the Lord led us to call upon the Great Physician. People across the state and literally around the world began to pray. God heard the prayers of his people. After months of chemotherapy, several surgeries, and numerous doctor visits, this girl has grown into a 16-year-old young lady who is currently cancer free. God is still performing miracles of healing today.

**Jesus returns to Galilee (vv. 43-45).** After the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus stayed in Sychar for two days. He then continued on his journey to Galilee.

Jesus stated in verse 44 that it is hard to go back home and minister to people. The reason for this is they may know us too well and it is hard for them to change from those earliest perceptions. The reception Jesus received in Galilee was very warm and accepting. Many of them had been to Jerusalem and knew of his miracles.

**A nobleman asks for help (vv. 46-47).** In verse 46 we see Jesus coming to Cana of Galilee. This is where he performed his first miracle. While he was there, a royal official, that is, an official serving Herod Antipas, came from the sea coast town of Capernaum which was approximately 25 miles from Cana.

The official's son had become ill with a fever. Having seen Jesus perform a miracle, the official requested that Jesus come and heal his son. The tense of the verb "requesting" in verse 47 indicates that he was persistent in his request. That is, he asked and kept on asking. His persistence was due to the fact that his son was to the point of death.

**Jesus promises healing (vv. 48-50a).** Jesus' response in verse 48 may seem very harsh. The fact that Jesus used the term "you people" (NASV) or "ye" (KJV) indicates that Jesus was not directing this response only to the official, but to a larger audience. He may have been speaking of all Galileans and their attitude toward making signs and wonders the criteria for faith.

The word Jesus used for "signs" means miracles. The word "wonders" refers to something beyond human explanation which causes people to stand in awe of what has taken place.

Jesus was saying to this official and to us that our faith should not be based upon the miracles he performs. Jesus desires that we possess a deep inner faith that is based upon him and not signs and wonders. Signs and wonders can strengthen our faith, but they should not be the basis of our faith.

After the man requested a second time that Jesus come with him, Jesus promised the man that his son would live. This was not just a prediction of the outcome of the son's illness. It was a word of healing. At the moment Jesus said, "Your son lives," the son was healed.

**The nobleman responds in faith (vv. 50b-54).** The official was faced with a decision. If he insisted that Jesus come with him, then he would be showing that he did not believe the word of Jesus. If he accepted the word of Jesus he would return home without any visible proof. The man decided to believe Jesus and accepted his word by faith.

As the man started on the way home, some of his servants met him. They had good news. His son's fever had gone away. The official asked at what time the fever had disappeared. Their response was the seventh hour. That is 1 p.m. Hebrew time, or 7 p.m. Roman time. The most important fact is that when Jesus said, "Your son lives," at that moment, he was healed.

Verse 53 indicates that the official accepted Jesus by faith. He believed on Jesus in the sense of giving his life to Christ. Not only did the official believe and accept Jesus, but also his whole household. May we be persistent in our prayers and know that God is concerned about the total person. As we see God answer our prayers, our faith will be strengthened and we will grow as Christians.

Howard is pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville.

## Life and Work What is genuine religion?



By Billie Buckley  
Luke 11

The year was 1971 when I wrote in the front of my Bible, "Lord, make me real and not religious." I would hope that our two grown sons would always remember me with those words, "Our mother was real."

What makes us real? Teaching school for 30 years has made me a real teacher; writing a weekly column for seven years has made me a real writer; being married for 35 years to my favorite preacher has made me a real pastor's wife. For 30 years I've been a real mother, and for five months, a real grandmother of twin boys.

For religion to be genuine or real, it needs to be mixed with the real "stuff" that life is made of. Jesus understood this completely. He was a lover of reality and today he wants us to be real in our relationship with him and with others. Many adults get confused and side-tracked on this issue. Let's clear the confusion up by listening to our Scripture in order to connect our Sundays with our Mondays.

**Real begins internally (vv. 37-41).** While at the home of a Pharisee, Jesus didn't keep the external ceremonial law related to washing before eating. This incident made a bold statement about a religious outside show being unacceptable for a personal, genuine relationship experience.

The outside show is just that — a show — no more, no less. It can make us laugh or cry; it can entertain us; but, it can not change us.

The inside reality is the opposite; it takes place when we permit Jesus to cleanse us internally. This changes us so we aren't concerned about being a star. We simply desire to become more Christ-like in all we do.

**Real does what is important (v. 42).** Jesus agreed with the Pharisees about the importance of tithing, but he added that other matters are important. He mentioned two:

1) The worth of worship that results in a continual love relationship with God himself is important. Real worship causes us to focus on and brag on God, not his human instruments or his personal blessings to us.

2) The concern for justice becomes real for us. Jesus told the Pharisees this truth, and he lived it, too. Many appealed to him for justice. Jesus knew that our refusal to treat others with justice would influence our spiritual growth. This is why he set an example for us to do what is right in relationship to all our responsibilities.

**Real is powerfully humble (v. 43).** Jesus condemned the Pharisees for the way they enjoyed the attention others gave them for their religious devotion. He warns us to avoid certain experiences.

Being puffed up with pride is not just ugly but a sin. It is sin because it separates us from God and from others.

Inflated ideas of our own importance is one bubble that will always burst. When this happens there is nothing left, for we have isolated ourselves from those who would help in our mending and healing.

**Real has a positive influence (v. 44).** In this verse Jesus compared the Pharisees to open graves; both contaminated people who came in touch with him. We are to be participants in a real religion that is compared not to open graves, but to open arms. How can this be possible?

Consider kindness as that which puts shoes on our prayers and opens wide our arms for others to find comfort and strength. This is the opposite of the open graves he mentioned.

Be controlled by his Holy Spirit so that we don't have to be concerned about our hypocritical self or our hypocritical neighbors controlling us. His wisdom is now ours.

**Real points to God (vv. 45-46, 52).** Jesus condemned the lawyers because their interpretation of the Scripture did not help people but made legalistic demands on them. Always God's Word should replace legalistic demands and remove the distance between God and man.

Removing the distance is possible because the whole Bible points to Jesus and his divine purpose on earth — to remove the distance between God and man. My Bible brings me close to God.

Replacing legalistic demands with loving encouragement and understanding was one of Jesus' main focuses. As Jesus did many times, we should change the subject from the legality of the law to the mercy of a genuine religion.

Buckley is a member of Petal Harvey Church, Petal.





An unidentified man cuts limbs to start clearing debris from the First Church of Cutler Ridge, Fla., left by Hurricane Andrew. The church served as one of 11 sites where disaster relief units served meals to residents after the category-four storm cut a 30-mile wide stretch of extreme damage across south Florida in 1992. Southern Baptist Home Mission Board missionary Franklin Beam has seen similar scenes in the aftermath of Andrew and Southern California's recent rash of fires and quakes. (BP photo)

## Home missionary too familiar with disaster

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — From hurricanes to fires to earthquakes, home missionary Franklin Beam is too familiar with disaster.

He was a church starter strategist in Miami during Hurricane Andrew in 1992. He moved to California last year, just as fires ravaged Laguna Beach, Calif. One of his first tasks in California was helping fire victims sort through the charred remains of their homes.

Beam's wife and children left Florida in December to join him in California, and they settled into their new home on New Year's Eve. Two weeks later, Southern California was rocked by an earthquake.

Beam, now a church starter strategist for Orange County Southern Baptist Association, lives far enough away from the earthquake's epicenter that his family felt relatively minor jolts. But it was enough to move Beam into disaster relief mode.

Beam's first step was recruiting volunteers, including June Tate, a member of First Southern Baptist Church in Fountain Valley and a Home Mission Board director.

Tate and her husband Burney filled the water tanks on their recreational vehicle and drove to Shepherd of the Hills Church, a disaster relief site coordinated by Brotherhood Commission volunteers.

As the Tates worked in the dis-

aster relief kitchen, they fed firemen who were on standby, youth from a juvenile hall, and local residents.

One woman told Tate she couldn't cook at home because all of her clean dishes were broken. Dishes in the dishwasher were not broken, but they were dirty and she had no water to clean them.

After Hurricane Andrew, Beam said disaster relief work "opened up doors for us that we never expected to open." Now he said he's anxious to see how God uses the earthquake to open more doors in California.

To assist earthquake relief efforts, the Home Mission Board contributed \$15,000 in hunger relief money and \$15,000 in disaster relief funds to the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Hunger relief funds are from designated gifts, not Cooperative Program or Annie Armstrong gifts. It is spent only on food. To donate to the hunger relief fund, send checks, earmarked for hunger relief, to the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

Disaster relief is part of the Home Mission Board's general budget, and it is spent for items such as bedding and prescription medicines. Designated contributions can be made to disaster relief at the above address.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

## Radio "shock jock" tells evangelism conference his story of regeneration

By James Dotson

MACON, Ga. (BP) — Many in the audience knew the voice, if not the face. But few would ever have believed the words coming from the mouth of David Paul Staves, known to hundreds of thousands of listeners to Atlanta talk radio as David Paul.

After detailing a career spent pushing the limits of aggressive shock radio — including regular hateful diatribes against Christians — Paul told Georgia Baptist evangelism conference attendees that about a year ago one man began telling him what Christianity was actually about for the first time in his life. And Paul told how that consistent witness and testimony, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, had led him to regeneration through faith in Christ.

"On May 6, 1993, I became a Christian," said Paul. "That was a very good day," he added, with characteristic understatement.

The testimonies of Paul and Bob Hughes, the man who introduced him to Christ, were high-

lights of the mid-January evangelism conference in Macon which focused on reaching people like Paul, people who know little or nothing about the Bible and therefore have no basis for believing it.

Paul's testimony was a classic case study in how individuals can share Christ through lifestyle evangelism, defined by Hughes simply as "walking the walk before, during, and after you talk the talk."

Paul, by his own admission, was a man consumed by money. In his business, he said, the way to get money was to get top ratings, and the way to get ratings in the 18-35 age market he was targeting was to be outrageous. He told of bringing in dancers, who would strip in front of him while he described their action on the radio. Other times he would have prostitutes as guests on the air. And his ratings were No. 1.

"I was feeding the public what I thought they wanted," he said. "...I would do whatever it took."

His attacks on Christianity also were notorious. "One year ago I believe if I were to enter this church, I would have made some of you nervous," he said immediately after taking the pulpit. "I used to say that the only time I would enter a church was to blow it up."

But in late 1992 Paul's life began to change. As he was reaching the peak of his professional popularity with an appearance on the Joan Rivers Show in New York, his personal life was in shambles. His wife — who was a Christian and embarrassed by his behavior — divorced him. He ultimately left WSB-AM in a contract dispute and took a job as a car salesman in Lawrenceville while he searched for another position. It was there that he met Bob Hughes, a lay member of Bethany Church, Snellville.

Unlike the others in the dealership, Hughes did not have coarse language or behavior. On Hughes' desk was a Bible and he listened to Christian music.

Over lunch at a Lawrenceville restaurant one day, Paul prayed to receive Christ.

"Has it changed me? My wife forgave me," he said, flashing his wedding ring. "I take my kids to church. I sit around with my wife and I discuss the Bible, which I never would have done before. I would never think of embarrassing my wife. My wife is a lot more important than my job."

Paul closed his remarks by seeking prayer for a common struggle, the strength to live for Christ while rejecting the temptations of an old existence.

"This is the new me, and this will be the rest of my life. But it will be tough," he told the group. "I know what I want to be. I want what you have.... I have some of it, but I'm not as strong as you.... Please put me on your prayer list, that I might find Christ's will in my life."

Dotson is associate editor, Georgia CHRISTIAN INDEX.

## Baptists use "Jesus" film, reach Cubans for Christ

MIAMI (BP) — About 75% of Cubans who have viewed the "Jesus" film in Baptist churches during the communist nation's "special period" have responded to the gospel, said a visiting Cuban Baptist leader.

Thousands of Cubans have seen the film — which has become an effective evangelistic tool worldwide — in churches during the past several years, according to Leoncio Veguilla, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba.

Veguilla, a pastor in Havana, Cuba's capital, was in the United States during January consulting with Southern Baptist and other evangelical mission leaders. He is vice president of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship.

What Cubans call the "special period" began after the November 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall and subsequent collapse of the Soviet bloc, according to news reports. With Cuba's close ties with the former Soviet Union,

those events reportedly ended about 70% of all Cuban imports.

Baptists in western Cuba are seeing a response to the gospel "like no other time in our history," said Veguilla in a phone interview while in Miami.

"People are looking for something to place their hope in, and many are looking to the churches as the source of their hope. Many are coming to know the Lord through this experience," he said.

Statistics from the western Baptist convention reflect that response. Baptisms in 1992 numbered 1,052, a 244% increase over 306 baptisms in 1989. Statistics for 1993 aren't available, but Veguilla predicts baptisms will exceed 1992 totals. The western convention, which relates to the Foreign Mission Board, is one of four Baptist groups in Cuba.

Western Cuban Baptists count 117 churches, including seven house churches and 50 mission congregations.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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DIQ SGER ER SGU LURROFU SGOS XU GUOQC  
DQIL SGU ZUFEMMEMF, SGOS VU RGIPKC KITU  
IMU OMISGUQ.

DEQRS HIGM SGQUU:UKUTUM

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Six:Twenty-Three.

Baptist Record

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